

FIRE DESTROYS PRINTING OFFICE

Nothing Saved from Burning Building. Fifteen Hundred Insurance

On last Friday evening at about 8:30 o'clock the building and plant of the Torrance County Leader were entirely destroyed by fire. Just how the fire originated will never be known. The employees had worked till after six, in printing the issue for last week, but were forced to quit before finishing the press work as the gasoline had all been used, and no more could be obtained until morning. Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell were the last to leave the building, Mr. Maxwell extinguishing the lights.

Ned Jensen and Ralph Easley were the first to reach the building after the fire was discovered, and immediately broke in the front door, in an attempt to save the books from the desk in the front of the office. The fire had already gained such headway that the heat, flames and smoke drove them back at every attempt to enter the building. Nothing could be saved, even the books and subscription lists being destroyed. The building was insured in the sum of \$350.00 and the plans and took for \$1,150.00. The paper will not be continued, as it would practically necessitate beginning all anew, everything having been lost.

Letter from Former Pastor

To our many friends of Estancia and vicinity we take this method of expressing our gratitude for kindnesses received while in your midst. We wish that we might have seen you all personally before leaving, but that was impossible. We shall always remember your kindnesses and commend you to God in prayer. Our journey to our new home was pleasant—no accidents or delays. We have been most cordially received here. We met our congregation Sunday morning and evening and had splendid services.

We find plenty to do in this growing city. Evidences of prosperity abound and the outlook of our work is encouraging. We solicit an interest in your prayers. May Heaven's blessing abide with you all.

D. B. Jackson.
Watonga, Okla., Dec. 9th, 1909.

Chicken Dinner and Bazaar.

The Westminster Circle of the Presbyterian Church will serve chicken dinner and hold a Bazaar all day Saturday in the building recently vacated by the Leader store. Everybody in Estancia and vicinity invited to make the Bazaar their headquarters Saturday. Many useful home-made articles suitable for Christmas presents will be on sale. If you wish to make some one a really handsome present attend this Bazaar.

Teachers Examinations.

County Superintendent Chas. R. Burt has announced an examination for teachers to be held at Estancia, the county seat, on Friday and Saturday, January 14 and 15, 1910. All teachers now holding permits must take the examination at this time, and any others caring to advance their grades may do so.

Salazar-Lueras.

On Wednesday morning at the house of Celestino Ortiz in Estancia, Saturnino Lueras and Mrs. Rita S. Salazar were united in marriage. Rev. Antonio Bessett, of Santa Fe, officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Lueras left on the noon train for Santa Fe, where they will spend a few days, after which they expect to make an extended trip into Old Mexico. The News extends well wishes.

Breaks an Arm.

Charlie Meyer, son of Sheriff Meyer, is carrying his arm in a sling, as a result of not having ridden a broncho. The attempt to ride was made on Wednesday morning, but proved a misfit.

Valley View.

Quite a crowd of Valleyites was shopping in the county seat Monday.

Matt Wheeler sold a fine span of mules in Estancia Monday.

O. W. Bay transacted business in Estancia Monday.

L. S. Wheeler went to Lucia on business Wednesday.

Wm. Wheeler and lady left for Palestine, Texas, Thursday.

The citizens have decided to give a Christmas entertainment with a tree. Everyone is invited to participate.

School will commence the first of the New Year.

W. H. Wheeler and son, Ben, had business in the county seat Thursday.

Christmas Entertainments.

The Methodist and Baptist Sunday Schools will each have their Christmas trees as usual this year, both occurring on next Friday night. A good program will be given at each of these churches, and a treat given each child enrolled as a pupil in the school. The Sunday School of the Christian Church will have a treat for the little folks.

The lower grades in the public schools will unite in a program, a tree being one of the features. Treats will be provided by the teachers, and the little folks are planning a very enjoyable time.

Splendid Snow is Falling.

During last night snow began falling throughout the valley and has continued all morning. At noon a blanket of about six or eight inches covers the ground, and the prospects are good that it will be a foot before it stops. Our farmers are jubilant, as a good snow now means a fine season next year. Let it snow!

Mr. and Mrs. Rube Striplin were in town yesterday, accompanied by their son. Rube was showing the young man around the city as the "finest youngster in the valley," and Rube ought to know.

On Tuesday morning Judge McFie excused from further service one member of the grand jury, who had been intoxicated on Monday night. C. A. Noble was drawn as juror to take his place.

Born, on last Saturday to Mr. and Mrs. Al Lucas, an eight and a half pound son. All concerned are doing well.

DISTRICT COURT IN SESSION

Both Juries are Empaneled, the Grand Jury Getting Busy at Once First Case before Petit Jury Today. Several Cases before the Court. Others Defaulted.

LONGINO MURDER TRIAL NEXT WEEK

District Court opened on Monday morning at ten o'clock in Estancia, Hon. John R. McFie presiding. Clerk Shearon was at his post as Sheriff Meyer. The commissioners had rented the large adobe store room just south of the Hughes Mercantile Company store for the use of the court. Sheriff Meyer had left no stone unturned in making every preparation possible for the comfort of the court and juries, as well as the people attending the sessions of the court. Utilizing the county boarders at the jail, he had prepared a number of comfortable seats or benches, besides tables for the attorneys, desk for the court, a neat railing for partition, etc. This work on the part of the sheriff was indeed a surprise to many upon entering the court room.

The work of empaneling the grand jury was taken up, and the following were chosen as members of the same: A. J. Green, Foreman; Guillermo B. Salaz, Juan H. Sanchez, Jose L. Salaz, J. J. Butts, Sabedro Trujillo, Lazaro Lopez, C. F. Meyer, Tomas Bachich, Francisco Vigil, Serapio Pineda, Thomas White, A. B. Maloney, Pedro Torres, J. M. Terry, Augustin Muller, Jose Gabaldon, Leandro Archuleta, Harve Cluff, Tanous Tabet, Matias Sandoval.

Those summoned as petit jurors were called, and examined, and after a number had been excused it was found that more names would have to be drawn to complete the venire. Those accepted were excused until Tuesday morning, when the venire was completed.

The following cases have been disposed of, the same appearing on the civil docket: The John Becker Company vs. R. A. Marble, suit on note, judgment by default.

Territory of New Mexico vs. A. A. Hine, Assault, set for hearing Monday.

Territory vs. Roman Montoya, assault with intent to kill, set for 2d Monday.

Territory vs. Lee Longino, murder, set for second Tuesday.

Territory vs. Candido Sanchez, Manuel Otero, Jesus Candelaria, Unlawfully interfering with legal voters.

How to Send Your Christmas Package

The Seamy side of Christmas, which often consists in the vexations of delayed and damaged gifts, can be avoided, it now appears. How to avoid it this Christmas is told by the express companies in a series of suggestions which they have given to the public.

Here are the nine rules, some of them "Don't" which have been formulated by the companies:

1. Send your package early, by December 18 if possible. The express company will give you a small label to paste on the package reading: "Do not open until Christmas."

2. Use wooden boxes for packing. Glass or fragile articles should be well protected. It may cost a few cents more, but the danger of loss or damage is very much reduced. If the shipment is lost or damaged, the express company will pay for it, but that will give no pleasure to the person to whom the present is sent.

3. Write the address in full, state, county, city, street and number, on the box or package with ink, or crayon. Tags are frequently torn off and lost.

4. If charges are prepaid, write the word "PAID" in large, plain letters on the package.

5. Insist on a receipt and see that the amount paid is marked on the receipt and package, and the value of the package declared thereon.

6. Write your own address in full somewhere on the package, following the prefix, "from..."

7. Enclose a card in each box or package, giving your name and address. If the outer marking should be destroyed the inner mark may insure prompt forwarding and delivery.

8. If not convenient to ship in wooden boxes, use strong wrapping paper, not newspaper, and tie with strong cord.

9. If package contains anything of perishable nature, write the word "Perishable" in large letters on the box or package.

Sale of Drug Store.

The sale of the stock of the Peoples Drug Store occurred on Monday afternoon, as advertised in the columns of the News the past weeks. Deputy Sheriff Smith was in charge of the sale, with Auctioneer Preston ascrier. There were only a few bidders, it being practically understood that the Potts Drug Company, the principal creditors would bid in the stock. After a short season of bidding the stock and fixtures were bid in by them at four hundred dollars. This will leave a very small balance after paying the expenses of the sale. The fixtures are probably more valuable than the stock on hand.

Control Better than Expulsion

(Expulsion—Compulsory Education—Reform School.)

Gentlemen:

It has come to my notice in several cases that teachers have resorted to expulsion of children for misconduct, for truancy, or for other reasons that seemed to justify. Is there not in such a course of action a suggestion of weakness on the part of the teacher? The school is for the child, and an efficient teacher will control that school without reducing its numbers by expulsion. Of course, there are certain young people who should not be in the public school. The management of these people is provided for, however, in section 10, Chapter 2, Laws of 1903, Page 169 of the Compilation of School Laws for 1909. Some teachers find it much easier to expel a child than to control him; for this reason the number of cases of expulsion increases very rapidly unless the supervising officer gives close attention to the matter. In the great majority of cases those pupils who are expelled from school are the very ones who are the most in need of the influences of the school and who can least afford to be without that influence.

Urges upon your teachers that they make every effort to have the school be of the greatest possible benefit to the greatest possible number. Remind them that every hour in school should bring profit to every pupil there and that there is a real loss to the pupil for every absence from a successful school.

In some cases the teachers follow the practice of dropping from the roll a pupil who has been absent for six successive half days. This means merely that an effort is being made to advance the percentage of attendance which is to be reported to the county superintendent at the close of each month. It is only fair that a pupil should give immediate notice to his teacher if for reason of sickness, moving out of the district, going away for a long visit, or other reason, he is to be absent from school for some time. His name may be immediately dropped from the roll and the absences not charged against the room. Of course, it is understood that if a pupil does not have satisfactory reason for his absence, the compulsory education law should be brought to bear upon his case.

We sometimes in the administration of school affairs overlook the fact that the parents must be held responsible for the control of their children and the idea should not be permitted to gain very great strength that the control of the child is assumed by the state through the administration of the schools. If a child is truant let the parent pay the penalty through the enforcement of the compulsory education law. If a pupil is vicious, idle, or of vagrant habits let both the parent and the child pay the penalty through the enforcement of the law found in Section 10, Chapter 2, Laws of 1903. Let us in all cases be willing to share the responsibility of improving the growing generation in every possible way, but zealous teachers are too liable to assume the entire responsibility and relieve the parent of a charge he should fulfill.

All we need to call to your attention a slight error in the Christmas Day Program. The sentence in the introductory statement reading "It is suggested that the program be given on Friday afternoon, December twenty-fifth," should be corrected to read "December twenty-fourth."

Yours very respectfully,
J. E. Clark,
Territorial Superintendent Public Instruction.

Department of Education, Santa Fe, N. M., December 13th, 1909.

A. B. Renchan came down from Santa Fe last night.

NO SALARIES FOR XMAS VACATION

Superintendent Clark Calls Attention to Revision of Statutes

We are in receipt of a circular letter from Superintendent J. E. Clark, in which he calls attention to some changes in the law in regard to salaries of teachers and other things. We publish herewith the letter:

On account of the fact that there is a great deal of misunderstanding concerning vacation salaries, I would ask you to read very carefully Section 26, Chapter 97, Laws of 1907, found on page 215 of the Compilation of School Laws for 1909, and note that this chapter was amended by Section 10, Chapter 121, of the Laws of 1909. On careful reading you will note that:

First, the holder of a permit or third grade certificate may not receive a salary in excess of \$50 per month.

Second, the holder of a second grade certificate may not receive a salary in excess of \$75 per month.

Third, there is no limit placed upon the salary that may be paid a holder of a first grade certificate or any higher form of teachers' license.

Fourth, that a holder of a permit may receive back pay in excess of \$50 per month, provided he secures a regular teachers' license at some time during the term for which he is engaged.

Fifth, that a teacher is entitled to full pay for a period not to exceed one month during which school may be closed for reasons specified.

Sixth, that the original provision of the law of 1907 giving a teacher the regular salary during the holiday vacation for a period not to exceed fifteen days has been repealed.

It is the last item in the foregoing that has been misunderstood in particular. Some teachers are of the opinion that they are to receive pay for the holiday vacation.

The length of the holiday vacation is fixed by the board of school directors and it may be made one day or one month, whatever the board may decide.

Holders of third grade certificates who advance their licenses during the term for which they are elected may not legally receive back salary in excess of \$50 but they may receive advanced salary from the date of issue of the advanced grade of license. This is true also of holders of second grade licenses.

The matter of payment for certain holidays and the matter of making up certain days lost during the term is wholly a local one which the board of directors and the teacher together with the county superintendent should decide.

Yours very respectfully,
J. E. Clark,
Territorial Superintendent Public Instruction.

Department of Education, Santa Fe, N. M., December 3, 1909.

Father Antonio Bessett returned to Santa Fe Wednesday noon after having celebrated mass at the house of Celestino Ortiz, and having officiated at the wedding of Saturnino Lueras and Mrs. Rita S. Salazar.

H. I. Lutz, the Willard Transfer Man, drove up a four-in-hand from the Cut-off town Monday morning bringing a number of jurymen and others who came on court business.